

Subject: Support Jordan Lake Rules
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CC: "'HRA'" <info@hawriver.org>

Members of the Environmental Management Commission:

I live in Chatham County , and I care deeply about what it happening to Jordan Lake . Please make the time to read the following:

“Welcome!

Imagine relaxing in a cove, listening to the sounds of water rippling. Then, you feel a firm tug on your fishing line. It's going to be a big one! Picture the surface of the lake glistening, water spraying your face, the boat motor ahead roaring. Suddenly, your skis give way — a splash landing! Hear the laughter of children, smell charcoal drifting through the air, feel a breeze blowing through the campground. With almost 14,000 acres of water, all this and more is yours to discover at Jordan Lake .”

So says the NC Division of Parks and Recreation on their Jordan Lake State Park home page. Their job is the sell the park, and it's an easy sell. Jordan Lake is unquestionably one of the finer natural resources in the entire state. Forty years ago it didn't exist, but now it's one of the hottest commodities in the region. Synonymous with “commodity” is the word “merchandize.” Jordan Lake is many things to many people, but at the bottom of the fishing line at the bottom of the lake, the rock bottom truth is that Jordan Lake has become “merchandize” to be bought and sold.

The Division of Parks and Recreation sells it as a destination for R&R. The sounds, sights and feel of this large body of water have a magnetic draw to a burgeoning population seeking escape from concrete, asphalt and rooftops that replace treetops, forests, fields and meadows at a rate that defies logic, common sense and the ability to sustain life as we want it. Developers, Builders and Realtors sell it, too, for the same reasons, but with much greater returns. And the State also allots Jordan Lake water to counties and municipalities to sell to their customers for none of the above reasons. This water is more than an amenity... more than a luxury... it is a means of survival.

Since most of us who are impacted by Jordan Lake are the “buyers” rather than the “merchants”, it is to us that a warning must be addressed, and by us that the warning must be heeded: “*Caveat emptor - Let the buyer beware.*” This is the age old idea that buyers take responsibility for the condition of the items they purchase and should examine them before purchase. This is especially true for items that are not covered under a strict warranty. Jordan Lake doesn't come with a warranty.

Truth is, Jordan Lake is no longer the “real deal” it once was. Truth is, Jordan Lake has become a “dirty deal.” The State knows it's a “dirty deal,” and hopefully they want us to know it, too. They know that the water is becoming unfit for fish and that the only tug you may soon feel at the end of your line is the old tire washed in by storm water runoff from the Haw River . That's the “big one” about which you'll be telling tall tales when all the fish are floating dead on the no longer glistening surface and putrefying the shore line and beaches. Forget the smell of charcoal as it is overcome by the odor of rotting fish. Forget the laughter of children

replaced by their whining over the “NO SWIMMING” signs that line the beaches. Forget the water skis and bring the waders and nets to help clean up the fish kills. But don’t forget this advice: Don’t drink the water!

The State should expect us, the buyers, to take responsibility for examining the water that sustains our very life. A close examination will show that the merchandise is (in water quality terms) “impaired.” Think “hearing impaired,” and know that means one step away from “deaf.” If you think that doesn’t “sound good,” you’re right. Imagine 14,000 acres of “deaf water,” and then prick up your own ears to the warning of what this means. And if this bothers you, then raise your voice (as I’m doing) and shout out to the state regulators that you want them to impose and enforce measures that will start right now to provide us with watery merchandise fit for consumption. Of course, it will cost you, and me and all of us. But as my Mother taught me, “You get what you pay for.” So, let’s pool our resources, build some bridges of communications over troubled waters and cause an ecological revival to take place within Jordan ’s banks.

Gary Simpson - Pittsboro